



# Celebration Sun

## Guide to Presentation

# **Celebration Sun**

*(suitable for children 3 to 12 years of age)*

## **Contents of Celebration Sun:**

- wooden Celebration Sun
- veneer Celebration Sun Months Labels

## **Additional Related Products:**

*(sold separately)*

- Seasons Mat

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## Celebration Sun Months Labels

**You will need:** Celebration Sun, Celebration Sun Months Labels

**Purpose:** To learn the months of the year and think about them as a portion of Earth's annual orbit around the Sun.

Place the Celebration Sun on a mat. Have the month labels out and sorted from 1 to 12. (The Months Labels have the month and its number in print on the front side and in cursive on the back side.) Discuss how it takes Earth one year to travel around the Sun completely. We use months to keep track of where we are in the course of a year. There are twelve months in a year and there are twelve points on the Celebration Sun. Each month can be fitted into its slot in order. Place each of the months in order around the Sun going counterclockwise. The Earth orbits the Sun going counterclockwise! The Celebration Sun and the Celebration Sun Month Labels can be placed on the shelf for individual practice with the numbering on the labels serving as a control of error.

## Celebration Sun Birthday Ritual

**You will need:** Celebration Sun, Celebration Sun Months Labels, candle and matches (or substitute such as a solar collection jar), small Montessori globe, timeline of pictures (one for each year of the birthday child's life)

**Purpose:** To celebrate a birthday by emphasizing the span of each year (and its experiences) as occurring during one revolution of Earth around the Sun.

*This celebration is suitable for children ages 3 - 12. Even if they do not understand the idea of the Earth's annual orbit around the Sun at first, they will have an "a-ha" moment later. The following are suggested presentations - the basic idea is followed by several variations. Feel free to make this ritual your own! Have parents bring in a picture for each year of the child's life prior to the celebration. Older children can make a personal timeline.*

At the circle, have the birthday child stand and make an announcement of the celebration of their birth. Place the Celebration Sun with the candle in the middle of the circle. Place the labels for the months of the year around it as you name them (going counterclockwise like the Earth's orbit around the Sun). Light the candle.

This represents our Sun. Our Sun gives us warmth and light and energy for all the life on Earth.

Have the birthday child come and stand beside the Celebration Sun. Hand them the globe.

This globe represents our Earth. The Earth takes a trip around the Sun, and do you know how long it takes to go all the way around? One year, that's right!

(Child's name) was born on the Earth in the month of \_\_\_\_\_. Let's find the label for that month and start there. Everyone was waiting for (child's name) to be born, and then, on (birth date), she was born!

Have the child start walking slowly counterclockwise around the Celebration Sun. Show the first picture.

She was very small and helpless. She cried when she wanted something and she slept more than she was awake. And, then, she was one year old.

Wait for the child to come back around to the birthday month and show the second picture.

When she was one, she began to walk. At first she fell down, but she got back up and tried again.

After the second circle, show the third picture.

Then she was two and she began to talk. At first she only said words like mama, dada, ball, and bottle. Then she learned more and more new words.

After the third time around, show the fourth picture.

Then, she was three, and she learned how to pour water and scrub a table.

This is the fourth time around, now show the fifth picture. Older children, or parents, can supply milestones for later years. At the final revolution:

And today, (child's name) is \_\_\_\_\_ years old!

Sing a birthday song of your choice. Try John McCutcheon's "Cut the Cake." Have the child blow out the candle.

#### **Variations:**

- If the parent is present, have them tell a more personal story of the child's life.
- You may want to read *On the Day You Were Born*, by Debra Frasier.
- Use the song "Circle of the Sun." A nice rendition is done by MaryLee Sunseri on her album, *Wee Chant*. The verses are sung or may be modified as follows:

Babies are born in the circle of the Sun, circle of the Sun, on their birthing day.

(Child's name) took her first steps ... on her walking day.

(Child's name) said her first words ... on her speaking day.

(Child's name) ran fast ... on her running day.

(Child's name) wrote her first letters ... on her writing day.

(Child's name) read her first word ... on her reading day.

## **Energy Comes from the Sun**

**You will need:** Celebration Sun, a candle, a jar with a charged solar panel and a lightbulb, lettuce leaves for the entire class

**Purpose:** To introduce the idea that all energy comes from the Sun and familiarize the students with the Celebration Sun as a symbol of the Sun in the classroom.

This lesson should be given with a hushed voice and with reverence, as if you are telling an amazing secret. Turn off the lights in the classroom. Place the Celebration Sun on a mat. Place the candle and light it.

This object will represent the Sun in our classroom. The Sun is there every day when we wake up. Even when the clouds hide it, it lights our sky. It gives us light like this candle. The Sun is a huge sphere of burning gases and this is just a tiny flame.

Bring their attention back to the candle.

The Sun gives us light and it also gives us warmth. Have you ever gotten close to a fire? Was it hot? Have you noticed how it gets cooler at night when the Sun is not shining on us? There is something else that the Sun gives us. It is invisible. You can't see it.

Show the jar with the solar panel. Turn on the light. Take out a lettuce leaf when you talk about plants.

Remember when we went outside to find the parts of the biome and we put this jar out in the sunlight?\*

This solar panel can collect the Sun's energy and store it in a battery. Then we can use the energy to turn on this light.

The Sun sends energy to the Earth that the plants use to make food. The plants turn their leaves to the Sun. They take up water, minerals, and the Sun's energy to make make food!

Pass around a piece of lettuce for each child.

We can't make food from the Sun with our bodies, can we? Other animals can't do it either. Only green plants can do it. We can eat the plants and get the Sun's energy that way!

Eat the lettuce. Have the children eat their lettuce.

You are eating Sun energy! It will give you energy to run and jump and learn. Sometimes, we might eat animals that eat plants and get the energy that way.

You can invite the children to name their favorite foods and trace it back to plants and the Sun for them. This can become a regular conversation at lunch.

*\* If you have not used the Parts of the Biome Jars with your class, simply exclude this reference.*